

Message Text

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70

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

DOTE-00 AID-05 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03 TRSE-00 XMB-02

OPIC-03 CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 FEA-01 /081 W

----- 129187

R 091415Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5340

INFO ATETTASSY DAR ES SALAAM 0953

AMEMBASSY KIGALI

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BUJUMBURA 0301

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECON, BY

SUBJECT: KIGOMA PORT CUT-OFF FROM RAILROAD SUPPLY LINE

1. ACCORDING TO INFORMATION RECEIVED BY THE EMBASSY, ON THE NIGHTS OF APRIL 3 AND 4, TORRENTIAL RAINS CARRIED AWAY A SECTION OF TRACK AND COVERED THE RAIL BED WITH SAND AND MUD JUST BETWEEN THE KIGOMA TRAIN STATION AND KIGOMA PORT ON LAKE TANGANIKA. ONE OBSERVER STATED THAT THESE CONDITIONS CAUSED A TRAIN TO DERAIL, AND TO SPILL ABOUT EIGHT CARLOADS OF GASOLINE AND OTHER FREIGHT INTO THE DITCH.

2. AS YET THERE HAS BEEN NO PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF THIS CALAMITY IN BUJUMBURA (PERHAPS TO REDUCE PROBABILITY OF PANIC BUYING AND HOARDING WHICH MIGHT ACCOMPANY NEWS OF BREAKDOWN OF BURUNDI'S SUPPLY LINE) BUT INFORMED SOURCES HAVE ESTIMATED THAT REPAIRS WILL TAKE FROM 20 TO 45 DAYS. THIS WILL PLACE FURTHER STRAIN ON BURUNDI'S

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SUPPLY OF BASIC CONSUMABLES AND CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS

SUCH AS WHEAT AND STEEL WHICH ARE ALREADY IN SHORT
SUPPLY. FORTUNATELY, LOCAL PETROLEUM RESERVES AVERAGE
ABOUT THREE MONTHS SUPPLY, EXCEPT FOR AVIATION FUEL WHICH
IS TRUCKED OVERLAND FROM MOMBASA THROUGH UGANDA AND RWANDA.
AS A RESULT OF THIS ACCIDENT, BURUNDI WILL PROBABLY LENGTHEN
ITS "UNOFFICIAL EMBARGO" ON PETROLEUM (RE)EXPORTS TO RWANDA
AND ZAIRE (PREVIOUSLY, IT WAS SUPPOSED TO HAVE BEEN LIFTED
DURING FIRST PART OF MAY) IN ORDER TO PROTECT AND TO
REPLENISH ITS OWN STOCKS.
MARK

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Message Attributes

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